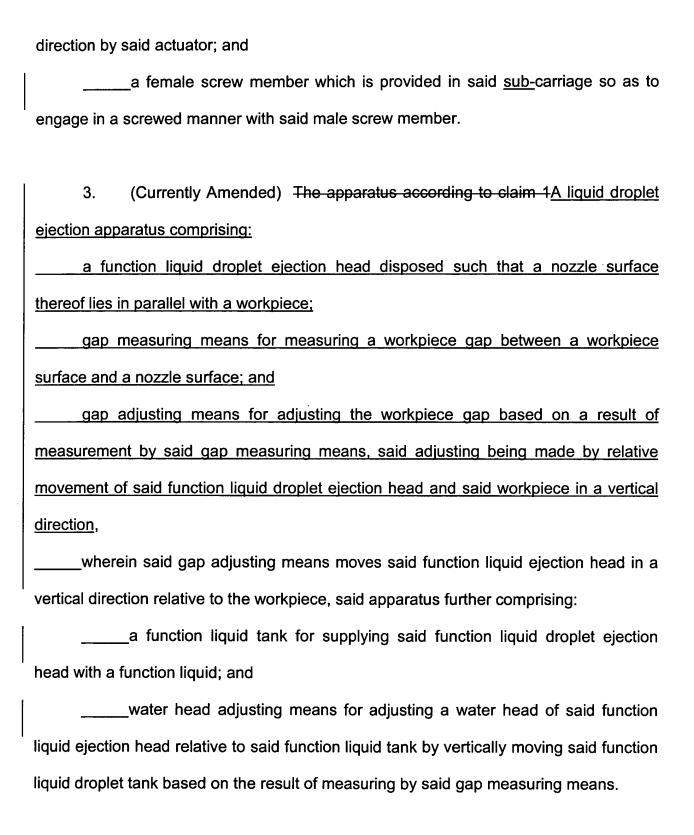
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.	(Cancelled)	_
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2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1A liquid droplet
ejection apparatus comprising:
a function liquid droplet ejection head disposed such that a nozzle surface
thereof lies in parallel with a workpiece;
gap measuring means for measuring a workpiece gap between a workpiece
surface and a nozzle surface; and
gap adjusting means for adjusting the workpiece gap based on a result of
measurement by said gap measuring means, said adjusting being made by relative
movement of said function liquid droplet ejection head and said workpiece in a vertical
direction,
wherein said function liquid droplet ejection head is mounted on a sub-carriage,
and wherein said gap adjusting means comprises:
a base which supports said <u>sub-</u> carriage in a manner slidable in a vertical
direction;
an actuator which is fixed to said base;
a male screw member which is rotated in one direction and in an opposite



4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said function liquid

tank is held by a tank holder, and wherein said water head adjusting means comprises:

a tank base for supporting said tank holder in a manner slidable in a vertical direction;

an actuator which is fixed to said tank base;

a male screw member which is rotated by said actuator in one direction and in an opposite direction; and

a female screw member which is provided in said tank holder so as to be engaged in a screwed manner with said male screw member.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:

a function liquid supply means for supplying said function liquid tank with a function liquid; and

a liquid level sensor for detecting a liquid level inside said function liquid tank,

wherein said function liquid supply means supplies the function liquid so as to attain a constant liquid level in said function liquid tank based on a result of detection by said liquid level sensor.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1A liquid droplet ejection apparatus comprising:

a function liquid droplet ejection head disposed such that a nozzle surface thereof lies in parallel with a workpiece;

gap measuring means for measuring a workpiece gap between a workpiece surface and a nozzle surface; and

gap adjusting means for adjusting the workpiece gap based on a result of
measurement by said gap measuring means, said adjusting being made by relative
movement of said function liquid droplet ejection head and said workpiece in a vertical
direction,
wherein said function liquid droplet ejection head is mounted on said carriage,
and wherein said gap measuring means comprises:
position measuring means for measuring a position of the workpiece in a
vertical direction, said position measuring means being mounted on said carriage; and
computing means for computing the workpiece gap based on a result of
measurement by said position measuring means.
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1A liquid droplet
ejection apparatus comprising:
a function liquid droplet ejection head disposed such that a nozzle surface
thereof lies in parallel with a workpiece;
gap measuring means for measuring a workpiece gap between a workpiece
surface and a nozzle surface; and
gap adjusting means for adjusting the workpiece gap based on a result of
measurement by said gap measuring means, said adjusting being made by relative
movement of said function liquid droplet ejection head and said workpiece in a vertical
direction,
wherein said workpiece is set in position on a worktable, and wherein said gap
measuring means comprise:

position measuring means for measuring a position of the workpiece and a	
position of the worktable in a vertical direction; and	
computing means for computing the workpiece gap based on a result of	
measurement by said position measuring means.	

8 - 12. (Cancelled).